

Over the FENCE

Dan Waters Promoted to Assistant Superintendent

Safety continues to be a key priority of the school and learning environment. Because of this increasing area of responsibility, Mr. Dan Waters was promoted to the Assistant Superintendent of Safety, Facilities, and Transportation, effective October 1.



Mr. Waters has been with Fraser Public Schools for the past 12 years, previously serving as Director of Operations, Maintenance, and Transportation.

"Over the past several years, Mr. Waters has been instrumental in implementing district-wide safety initiatives. He has worked with district stakeholders and outside partners to ensure we have a safe and welcoming learning environment for all our students and staff," said Dr. Wozniak. "Promoting him to Assistant Superintendent reflects our Board's priority on safety."

So far this year, Mr. Waters has assisted principals on-site when conducting various school drills with the new five-button emergency warning system. Each button is intended for a different type of situation, including lock out, lockdown, evacuation, and emergency weather. He has also overseen the installation of security film and drop-down shades

on classroom doors and side windows. Finally, Mr. Waters has directed the installation of school-themed graphic coverings on internal glass windows at Edison, Emerson, Salk, and Mark Twain elementary schools, and Fraser High School. The burglar alarms and fire monitoring systems have also been upgraded throughout the district.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fraser Families,
November is here, and the season of giving is upon us. I would like to take a moment and say how grateful I am for our staff, families, and community.

This year all of our schools hosted fall conferences in October, which is earlier in the fall than our past practice. This meant that students, teachers, and parents could discuss each child's goals, celebrations, and learning opportunities. We also continued our practice of students leading the conversation at elementary conferences. You can read more about the benefits of this practice in the Curriculum Corner on page two.

At the end of October, the district celebrated Red Ribbon Week, the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation. Our schools gave students red ribbons to wear, and the elementary buildings hosted spirit weeks where students could dress up and celebrate their commitment to being drug free.

I had the honor of visiting our schools and rewarding a few students in each building who were wearing their red ribbons. We had a conversation about what the ribbons mean and why they are important.

Fraser is truly a special place to work, and I love having opportunities to visit our schools and talk with students and staff.

We have much to be thankful for in our Fraser Family.

With Fraser Pride,
Dr. Wozniak

CURRICULUM CORNER

STUDENT-INVOLVED CONFERENCES

Fraser Public Schools have been scheduling student-involved conferences in the elementary for the past several years. Student-involved conferences in elementary schools have several benefits for both students and their parents or guardians. These conferences are designed to encourage active participation from the students themselves, allowing them to take ownership of their learning and share their progress and goals with their parents and teachers. Here are some of the benefits:

Student Ownership: By actively participating in their conferences, students take ownership of their learning. They learn to reflect on their progress, strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. This promotes a sense of responsibility for their education.

Improved Communication: Student-involved conferences encourage open and transparent communication between students, parents, and teachers. Students can express their thoughts and concerns, and parents can better understand their child's perspective.

Goal Setting: Students can discuss their academic and personal goals with their parents and teachers. This collaborative goal-setting process helps

students develop a sense of purpose and motivation to work toward their objectives.

Self-Assessment: Students learn to assess their own work and progress. This self-reflection can lead to increased self-awareness and a deeper understanding of their strengths and areas needing improvement.

Enhanced Learning Skills: By participating in the conference, students practice important skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, and self-evaluation, which can be beneficial in their overall education.

Parent Involvement: These conferences provide parents with a firsthand understanding of their child's educational progress and needs. They can offer support at home that is more aligned with the child's specific needs.

Stronger Teacher-Student Relationships: Teachers get to know their students on a deeper level, as they hear directly from them about their experiences and aspirations. This can lead to more personalized instruction.

Motivation and Engagement: When students see that their education is a shared effort involving teachers, parents, and themselves, they are often more motivated and engaged in their studies.

Accountability: Students are held accountable for their actions and their commitment to their own education. This accountability can lead to improved academic performance.

Empowerment: Involving students in the conference process empowers them to become advocates for their own education. They learn that their voices matter and that they can play an active role in shaping their learning experiences.

Parent-Teacher Collaboration: These conferences facilitate collaboration between parents and teachers, creating a more unified support system for the child's education. The discussions often lead to strategies and interventions that can benefit the student.

Overall, student-involved conferences help create a more holistic and student-centered approach to education. They foster a sense of partnership between students, parents, and teachers, which can lead to better academic outcomes and a more positive educational experience. We are very proud of our elementary students and teachers and appreciate all the work that they put in to make these conferences a success.

Fraser Coach Inducted to the Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame

Longtime Fraser High School basketball coach Dave Kuppe was one of four coaches from across the state inducted to the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame. He is the first Fraser coach to receive this honor.

Mr. Kuppe was recognized at the BCAM Hall of Fame banquet on October 1.

The BCAM Hall of Fame inducted its first members in 1985. There are now over 150 coaches in the BCAM Hall of Fame. To qualify, a coach must have coached varsity or college basketball for at least 20 years and/or accumulated 300 or more victories.

Congratulations to Mr. Kuppe!



Over 6,500 Books Donated to the Navajo Nation

While on a family vacation to Colorado, Mrs. Anne Cook's family learned that the Navajo Nation did not have a library on the reservation. Mrs. Cook, Media Center Coordinator at Fraser High School, and her family organized a book drive and partnered with the International Academy of Macomb, L'Anse Creuse High School North, Fraser High School, Eisenhower Elementary, and the Fraser Police Department to collect books. Together, they collected over 6,500 books!

Mrs. Cook's family rented a truck and delivered these books to the Navajo

Nation this summer. The original plan was to display the books in the chapter house or to divide them among the schools. Upon seeing how many books were donated, the Navajo Nation is considering building a library on the reservation!

"We loved watching all of the children who helped unload the books start going through the boxes and talk about which ones they wanted to read," commented Mrs. Cook. "Thank you for your support in last year's book drive."



First Technology Purchases from May Bond Approved

Updated sound systems in all elementary classrooms and new staff MacBooks are among the first group of technology purchases from the 2023 bond.



The board of education approved four bids totaling more than \$766,000 at the September 25 meeting.

This is the first major purchase from the \$59 million bond that was approved in May 2023.

The approved bids include:

- New sound system equipment in elementary and Dooley Center classrooms. The current equipment was purchased 10 years ago.

- More than 70 iPad charging stations for all six elementary schools and the Dooley Center.
- New MacBooks for all district staff.
- 30 Dell Precision workstations for the Fraser High School CAD lab.

Roughly \$10 million of the bond is earmarked for technology purchases, which will happen through the 2028-2029 school year.

The remaining \$49 million of the bond is for construction projects, including safety enhancements; boiler and HVAC replacements; parking lot, curb, and roofing work; and purchasing new school buses. More information about the timeline for upcoming projects can be found on our website, www.thefraserdifference.com.



Learning Centers in Kindergarten

Kindergarten learning centers at Disney Elementary are in full swing as we enter the seventh week of school. Centers are activities that take place in six specific areas within the classrooms. Students complete three center rotations each day. During center time, students work together within small groups to practice various concepts and skills that they have learned. This allows students time to exercise their knowledge, while engaging in hands-on games and activities with their peers. This portion of the day is essential, as it allows students to not only practice academic skills, but also to improve upon their social-emotional and self-regulation skills. Centers are a kindergarten “fan favorite” because they are engaging and fun, and they allow students to feel successful in the classroom.

New School Year, NEW SCIENCE

This year, second-grade students at Emerson Elementary have been using a new science curriculum called Mystery Science. It involves hands-on activities to solve real-world problems. For example, students learned where sand comes from. If you need any help figuring this out, be sure to ask Emerson’s second-grade experts! They also are learning about how erosion affects the land. The students completed an experiment that showed them how erosion forms canyons. The students are becoming amazing scientists. Thank you, Mystery Science!



Changes at Secondary Level

Students at Richards Middle School and Fraser High School will notice some changes with scheduling and final exams this school year.

After much discussion and feedback, RMS changed from 10-week selective classes to 20 weeks (one semester). At FHS, the final grade calculation was adjusted and dedicated days for final exams were eliminated from the end of each semester.

Richards Middle School

In previous years, students could take either 10-week or semester-long selective classes. This made scheduling difficult and did not provide much time for teachers to dive deeply into the course content.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the decision was made to expand all selective classes to one semester, which allows for an expansion on the competencies taught in each class.

“The change from 10 weeks to semester-long classes prepares students for

what they are going to see at the high school,” said RMS Principal Huston Julian. “It also helps to connect the career technical education pathways between the two schools.”

The change to all semester-long classes removed the need for card marking periods at RMS.

Fraser High School

Beginning this year, specific days for final exams are not designated on the calendar. This is because final exams no longer carry as much weight in a student’s final grade.

Before this year, final exams contributed up to 20 percent of a student’s final grade. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, final exams – if they are administered – will be counted as 10 percent of the competency score. The competency score is based on all assessments and performance tasks, and makes up 70 percent of the final grade. The other 30 percent is based on homework and in-class practice work.

Competency-based education is an approach that focuses on assessing students based on their demonstration of specific skills and knowledge, rather than on their ability to memorize and regurgitate information.

Edison Wins Grant for Sensory Room

Edison Elementary received a \$1,000 grant from the Fredi the PizzaMan Foundation to update their sensory room.

The school purchased several big items, including a stationary bike, a hanging egg chair, and a fish bubble tube. Other items purchased include weighted stuffed animals, a



weighted blanket, new fidgets, and new storage bins.

"One of the most exciting additions is the creation of a 'Sensory Lending Library,'" said teacher Alyssa McNamara. "Staff are now able to check out sensory items that can be used in their classroom, such as noise-canceling headphones, wobble cushions, wedge seats, sensory stickers, and chair bands. These new items have helped students immensely, and we can't wait to see the lasting impact!"



According to their website, the foundation focuses solely on equipping sensory rooms in schools to spread autism awareness and acceptance that make a long-lasting difference for the teachers, communities, schools, parents, and most importantly, the children.

Edison Young 5s Visit Deneweth's

This fall all four Young 5 classes at Edison Elementary went to Deneweth's Garden Center on a field trip. The classes each went to six different stations. They learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin, decorated a pumpkin to take home, went on a spooky train ride, walked through a haunted maze, and had fun climbing the tallest hay tower.

Learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin enables students to identify the stages of a pumpkin's life



cycle from seed to fruit and to recognize a pattern in nature. They also learn about the different parts of a pumpkin and how they

function. But if you ask any of them their favorite part, it was going on the school bus. For many of them it was their first time.

Dooley is Buzzing with Excitement



The Dooley Center has much excitement buzzing around this month as they introduce their PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) initiative. PBIS in an early childhood building is all about making positive behaviors fun and exciting for our littles. Dooley staff set school-wide expectations and celebrate the students as they learn and grow.

One of the ways they are celebrating the students is by giving them little bees when they see students "Beeing Safe," "Beeing in Control," and "Beeing Responsible." The students get to add their bee to the Dooley Hive, and when it is all full, they get to celebrate the students' accomplishments as one big hive by having a school-wide dance party in the hallway.

The students love seeing more and more bees in the hive and have been showing the sign-language letter B to remind others to "bee" safe, in control, and responsible.



Playtime Makes a Difference at Twain

The Young 5s at Mark Twain Elementary experience engagement, build social skills, and enhance creativity through their daily playtime in the afternoon. Through choice and freedom, the Young 5s students receive a rich learning experience while making discoveries in a way that feels like fun rather than work. They will use these skills as they progress to become kindergarteners next year.

Twain's play area features a kitchen, math area, blocks, superhero/dollhouse areas, and a play puppet theater for dramatic play.

Someone once said, "Children learn as they play, but most importantly in play, children learn how to learn."

Third-Grade Monthly MATH ACTIVITY

Third-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary worked together on a multiplication pumpkin activity to kick off the school year.

They worked in groups to help each other solve multiplication facts. Students also colored and put together their pumpkins to display in



the third-grade hallway. Students are excited to work together again next month on a new activity.

Sixth-Grade Camp Experience



One of the best memories for Eisenhower Elementary's sixth-grade students is their camping trip. The students participated in canoeing, ziplining, a high ropes course, and archery. Many of these activities were new adventures for the students.

They connected their new experiences to Eisenhower's Second Step program and discussed how their brain changes and creates a new neural pathway with new actions. Overall, the trip was fun and educational!

It's Apple Picking Time!

As part of their science unit on life cycles and seasons, first-grade students at Salk Elementary and their teachers, Mrs. Bell, Ms. Dixon, and Mrs. Kowalkowski, spent the day at Westview Apple Orchard for their fall field trip. Students learned the life cycle of an apple tree and the parts of an apple. Studying the life cycle of an apple is a great way to engage students in

learning about life cycles and living things. Apples are a great way to start learning about life cycles because students know apples well as a food, but they probably have yet to observe them closely and wonder how they come to be. Students can hold and observe apples clearly, plus it is a fun fall theme.

Students enjoyed a hayride, picking apples, feeding goats, and a cider and



donut treat to celebrate the beginning of autumn. A great time was had by all. We couldn't have "picked" a better day!



enVision Mathematics

Richards Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade math classrooms have implemented the enVision mathematics curriculum this year. This curriculum involves both digital and printed resources to utilize both inside and outside the classroom, for the students and families. The program also offers each student a workbook to record notes, complete practice work, and provide real-world application for concepts.

Student and staff participation in the enVision curriculum has provided opportunities to explore mathematics in an engaging format that includes videos and interactive resources that fully integrate with Canvas. enVision offers visual models within the lessons, virtual videos for additional help to our students, digital and printable practice problems, and even family engagement resources to assist at home on the learning targets. By the adoption of the enVision program, RMS secondary math teachers have resources that support our vertical articulation efforts with the math curriculum across grade levels 7 through 12 that allows our staff to collaborate in a larger scope within our professional learning community.

First-Grade Students SOAR

Eisenhower Elementary first-grade students have been focusing on making their behaviors SOAR! The students started the year learning how to be Safe, Own their behaviors, and Accept and Respect others. They continue to practice these expectations every day.

To encourage helpful behavior, students signed promise boards to show their commitment to making positive choices. Students are also part of a community-based classroom management system in each of the first-grade classrooms. Mrs. Gray's class is working toward earning "Lucky Ducks" while



Mrs. Gargasoulas' class is focusing on earning "Marvelous Monkeys." The classes can collectively earn large "Ducks" or "Monkeys" when they work together to demonstrate SOAR behaviors, or individuals can earn smaller "Ducks" or "Monkeys" when recognized for exemplary behaviors.

Students are learning that it's okay to make mistakes and that they can move on and make better choices. Working together as a team has motivated the students to encourage one another and has truly helped to develop a positive atmosphere within the classrooms.

I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for ICE CREAM!

Salk Elementary implemented a new PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) reward incentive this year.

Students may use hawk cash to choose to participate in a new monthly raffle called "The Principal's Experience." Hawk cash is given to students when they demonstrate positive behaviors in school. These behaviors are explained to the student as "Respecting the Nest" by being safe, responsible, and respectful. If an adult witnesses a student demonstrating



these behaviors, they can reward the student with hawk cash. Three students from every grade level are randomly picked to enjoy the incentive for the month. September's reward was making their own ice cream sundae, hosted by Mrs. Bell and Mr. Birkmeier. It was a big hit! For October, students enjoyed cider and donuts.

Fraser SHOUT-OUTS

Fraser Shout-Outs recognize staff members who go above and beyond for their students, colleagues, and the community. As a principal or administrator becomes aware of an extra effort by a staff member, he or she will submit that member for a Fraser Shout-Out.



Nicholas Bostic

I would like to give a Shout-Out to Nick Bostic, also known as Mr. Nick. Nick is the daytime custodian at Mark Twain Elementary. He takes

pride in his work and our building. He addresses custodial issues in a timely manner and does whatever is needed to keep the building looking its very best. He does all this with a smile too!

Nick also regularly engages students in a positive manner. He knows the students by name. He takes time to greet students in the morning and often brings a smile to their faces with a big high-five! Due to his positive behavior, many of our students want to assist in

the cafeteria. In addition, Mr. Nick is a local celebrity on our basketball courts.

In short, Mr. Nick helps make Mark Twain a wonderful place, and we are thankful he is on our team! *Submitted by Keith Tonn*



Kelly Malloy

Mrs. Kelly Malloy is such an important part of our special education team at Eisenhower. She has an ability to connect with her students, build

a rapport with parents, and support our students' communication skills with ease.

Kelly goes above and beyond for our students, and we are fortunate to have her as part of the Eisenhower team!

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly



Marching Band Festival Results

Congratulations to the 165-member Fraser High School Rambler marching band on its First Division rating in Class A competition at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 16 Marching Band Festival on Wednesday, October 11, at Troy High School.

This is the twenty-second consecutive year that Fraser has participated in the festival and earned a First Division rating. Marching Band Festival is a week-long event across the state of Michigan, with a total of 34 bands from District 16 [which covers bands from all of Macomb and St. Clair Counties, and parts of Oakland County] participating this year. This adds up to over 3,000 student musicians taking the field in competition.

Three judges adjudicate the bands in the categories of music, marching, and general effect showmanship. Ratings range from First Division, which is a superior rating equivalent to an "A" grade, to Fifth Division. Our Ramblers earned straight First Division ratings with 6 A's and 3 A-'s.

PLANNING AHEAD

NOVEMBER 2
 Gleaner's Mobile
 Food Pantry
 FHS Klein Side
 9:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 6
 Board of
 Education Meeting
 Emerson Elementary
 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 7
 Election Day -
 NO SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 10
 Fall Play -
 "A Christmas
 Carol"
 Fraser Performing
 Arts Center
 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 11
 Fall Play -
 "A Christmas
 Carol"
 Fraser Performing
 Arts Center
 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 16
 Gleaner's Mobile
 Food Pantry
 FHS Klein Side
 9:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 20
 Board of
 Education Meeting
 RMS Idea Lab
 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 22-24
 Thanksgiving Break
 - NO SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 27
 School Resumes

NOVEMBER 30
 Elementary
 Half Day
 8:35 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 ECSE PM Only

NOVEMBER 30
 Gleaner's Mobile
 Food Pantry
 FHS Klein Side
 9:30 a.m.

RMS Students Perform at Macomb Center



The Richards Middle School Choir had a unique opportunity to perform onstage at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

The 61 students performed three songs during the intermission at the Sicilian Tenors concert on October 13.

"The students were treated like rock stars backstage with food and hospitality," said Choir Director Mr. Mike Perkins. "This is something they will never forget."

Attendance Data Showing Positive Improvements

This year Fraser Public Schools is closely monitoring attendance at every grade level and taking steps to help students come to school and improve overall attendance rates.

Beginning at the end of September, attendance data for every school was compiled and students were put on tiers based on the percentage of school they were absent.

Tier 1 is for students who have missed less than 19 percent of the school year. Tier 2 is defined as missing 20-29 percent of the school year, and Tier 3 is 30 percent or more. Students on Tier 3 are also defined as being chronically absent (this includes both excused and unexcused absences).

Between September 25 and October 9, the number of students in Tier 1 increased at every school, which means more students are attending school. The district averaged more than 94.5 percent of students on Tier 1 October 9,

which was more than two percentage points better than September 25.

During that same period, the number of students in Young 5s through 12th grade who were in Tier 2 decreased by 65, from 225 students to 160 students. The Tier 3 number also decreased, from 130 to 113.



District and school staff will continue to monitor the data, and families of students on tiers 2 and 3 will be contacted to discuss ways to improve attendance. Studies show that students who are chronically absent have a higher likelihood of not reading on grade level in elementary school and not finishing high school.

For more information about the attendance initiative in Fraser, please visit www.fraser.k12.mi.us/attendance.

Twain Student Named WORLD CHAMPION

Twain student Malachi Randle has a title not many 6th graders can claim – world champion martial artist.



Malachi competed in the World Karate Commission (WKC) World Championships in Orlando, Florida, at the end of October. He finished first in the 11-12 Boys Korean Forms, fourth in 11-12 Boys Traditional Weapons, and seventh in Boys 11-12 Hard Style Forms.

Only four kids per age bracket were eligible to represent Team USA at the world championship.

He is also ranked number one black belt 11- to 12-year-old in the state of Michigan.

District Receives Highest Audit Rating

The district received an unmodified opinion on the year-end June 30, 2023, audit, which is the best possible result.

Mr. Joe Brandenburg from Buss & Company presented his findings at the October 9 board of education meeting.

Revenues for the year were \$71.3 million and expenses were \$68.1 million. Instruction and student

support accounted for more than 70 percent of the expenses.


The district ended the year with a fund balance of \$10.8 million, which represents 15.9 percent of 2023 expenditures.

Macomb *READS!*


READING CARNIVAL

November 4, 2023
10am - 2pm
OPENING KICKOFF
10 am


JoAnne PURTAN AND MARK HACKEL
KICKOFF AT 10 AM!




Author
Carrie Pearson




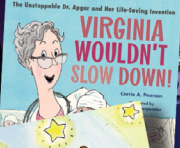

Literacy Ambassador
JoAnne Purtan
104.3 FM - WOMC



Literacy Ambassador
Mark Hackel
County Executive




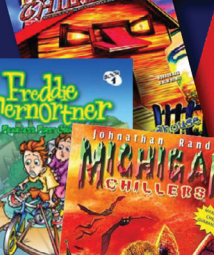


Author
Johnathan Rand






FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

- Authors Johnathan Rand & Carrie Pearson
- FREE Children's Books
- STEM & Art Activities
- DJ & Games
- Costumed Characters & School Mascots
- FREE Cider & Donuts

REGISTER at www.misd.net/MacombReads



Macomb Intermediate School District
44001 Garfield Rd., Clinton Twp.